

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A protein complex obtainable by subjecting α -lactalbumin ~~as found in non-human milk~~ to ion exchange chromatography ~~with using~~ [[an]]a Tris-acryl ion exchange column material with a NaCl gradient and obtaining a fraction which elutes after application of 1M NaCl to the column, to obtain six fractions using an NaCl gradient, and recovering the first fraction as said protein complex, wherein the complex and which inhibits attachment of a bacteria selected from the group consisting of *S. pneumoniae* or *H. influenzae* to human respiratory tract epithelial cells when tested in vitro, as said protein complex.

17. (Currently Amended) A protein complex according to claim 16, wherein the α -lactalbumin is [[non-]]human milk ~~is or~~ bovine milk α -lactalbumin.

18. (Previously Presented) A protein complex according to claim 16 wherein said protein complex comprises moieties of molecular weight 14-15kD, 30kD and/or 100kD.

19. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a protein complex according to claim 16 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

20. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in the form of an oral or mucosal dosage unit.

21. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in the form of an injectable composition.

22. (Previously Presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 19 wherein said pharmaceutical composition is in the form of a topical composition.

23. (Previously Presented) A method of therapeutically treating a bacterial infection, which method comprises applying a protein complex according to claim 16 to said infection in an amount effective to treat said infection.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23 wherein the bacterial infection is in the respiratory tract.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23 wherein the bacterial infection is caused by S. pneumoniae and/or H. influenzae.

26. (Previously Presented) A food or feed-stuff comprising a protein complex according to claim 16.

27. (Currently Amended) A method of prophylactically treating a bacterial infection, which method comprises applying to a subject who may be at risk of said bacterial infection a protein complex according to claim 16 in an amount effective to prevent[[treat]] said infection.

28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein the bacterial infection is in the respiratory tract.

29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 27 wherein the bacterial infection is caused by S. pneumoniae and/or H. influenzae.